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Released: February 28, 2019

## **JANUARY 1 SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its Sheep and Goats report today showing the Kentucky sheep inventory increased from last year, while the goat inventory was lower. Data in the report is based on a survey of farmers conducted in January and February.

The total number of sheep in Kentucky on January 1, 2019, was estimated at 64,000 head, an increase of 6,000 from the previous year's estimate. All breeding sheep and lambs were estimated at 49,000 head and all market sheep and lambs were estimated at 15,000 head. Breeding ewes were increased to 37,000, and breeding rams increased to 2,500 head, 500 more than the previous year. Replacement lambs numbered 9,500, up 1,500 from 2018. Lamb crop for 2018 increased by 2,000 from last year to 37,000 head.

All sheep and lambs inventory in the United States on January 1, 2019 totaled 5.23 million head, down 1 percent from 2018. Breeding sheep inventory at 3.82 million head on January 1, 2019, decreased 1 percent from 3.87 million head on January 1, 2018. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.00 million head, were 1 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2019 totaled 1.41 million head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2018. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory. The 2018 lamb crop of 3.24 million head was up slightly from 2017. The 2018 lambing rate was 107 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2018, up 1 percent from 2017.

All meat and other goats in Kentucky were estimated at 52,000 head, down 5,000 head from January 2018. Milk goats at 6,000 head, were unchanged from the previous year's estimate.

All goats and kids inventory in the United States on January 1, 2019 totaled 2.62 million head, down 1 percent from 2018. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.15 million head, down 1 percent from 2018. Does one year old and older, at 1.60 million head, were 1 percent below last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 474 thousand head, up 2 percent from a year ago. Kid crop for 2018 totaled 1.64 million head for all goats, up slightly from 2017. Meat and all other goats totaled 2.06 million head on January 1, 2019, down 1 percent from 2018. Milk goat inventory was 430 thousand head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2018, while Angora goats were down 5 percent, totaling 137 thousand head.